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D/Map

13 JUL 1950

Assistant Director, OCD

Deputy Assistant Director, ORE

Proposed use of Universities for Storage of Published Maps of the  
CIA Map Collection

1. The Map Division, ORE, has received approval for the inclusion of a single-copy selected collection of maps on foreign areas in the CIA vital storage area. While recognizing the immediate priority for establishing this storage, the Map Division has at the same time submitted an additional plan for handling unclassified published maps not produced by U. S. Government agencies. The suggestion is comparable to the Army Map Service depository program which, in addition to its own vital storage, maintains several map depositories at centers throughout the United States.

2. The Map Division's suggestion would provide duplicate map collections, under CIA control, for the more essential published maps of foreign areas in so far as adequate copies could be obtained. These duplicate collections would be maintained on an active basis and would provide current research facilities at the centers chosen.

3. D/Map would provide for an adequate number of duplicate copies of valuable maps in conducting future procurement and would select copies from the presently maintained duplicate CIA map files for transmittal to approved university depositories.

4. No specific preference of universities to act as depositories is indicated, although the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] are suggested as possibilities. It is believed that no more than three depositories would be advisable.

5. The Map Division has equipment (map cases) that could be supplied to the universities for this purpose if required. After shipment of currently-held duplicate copies, the Map Division would continue to augment the collections with future acquisitions. As part of the agreement with the universities, the curators of the collections would be required to maintain accurate loan records so that there would be no loss of material when used for research purposes at these universities.

6. The Map Division believes that there is merit in this proposal, if it meets the requirements of OCD. It was suggested that OCD would be the appropriate channel to set up arrangements at the universities.

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7. It is requested that this proposal be given consideration, and that the Map Division be contacted directly in respect to any further arrangements.

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Captain, U.S.N.

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